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INFO RUEHBUL/AMEMBASSY KABUL PRIORITY 8160
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY 7261
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY 2810
RUEHKF/AMCONSUL KARACHI PRIORITY 8952
RUEHLH/AMCONSUL LAHORE PRIORITY 4823
RUEHPW/AMCONSUL PESHAWAR PRIORITY 3517
RUMICEA/USCENTCOM INTEL CEN MACDILL AFB FL PRIORITY
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
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S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 ISLAMABAD 000676

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 01/04/2018

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PHUM](#) [FK](#) [PREL](#)

SUBJECT: POTENTIAL PAKISTANI PRIME MINISTER: AMIN FAHEEM

REF: A. ISLAMABAD 549

[1](#)B. ISLAMABAD 505

[1](#)C. ISLAMABAD 226

[1](#)D. ISLAMABAD 146

Classified By: Anne W. Patterson, Reasons 1.4 (b), (d)

[1](#)1. (C) Summary: This is one of several profiles on potential Pakistani candidates for Prime Minister. The Pakistan People's Party (PPP) is in the most recent International Republican Institute's poll, Faheem was the candidate preferred overall to become Prime Minister.

[1](#)2. (C) The other contenders include PPP Co-Chairman Asif Zardari, who floated a failed trial balloon (Ref A) on his candidature in early February. Aftab Mirani. End Summary.

[1](#)3. (C) The eldest son of a founding member of the PPP, Amin Faheem has a strong, independent political base in Sindh province. A tradition Faheem shares a story of how he was personally recruited as a young man to the party by PPP founder Zulfakir Ali Bhutto during high tea in London.

[1](#)4. (C) Faheem was deeply shaken by Benazir Bhutto's assassination. In addition to physical side-effects (poor hearing in his left ear, color vision problems) but Weak

[1](#)5. (S) Faheem is polite, mild-mannered, soft-spoken and considered pliable. Benazir kept him and all her supporters on a very short leash. President Musharraf has indicated that he would prefer to work with Faheem than with Zardari. Pakistan Muslim League (PML) Secretary General

[1](#)6. (S) Faheem assured Senator Lieberman that he has no problem working with Chaudhry Shujaat because their fathers had served together in the military. In his last meeting with Ambassador (Ref B), Faheem went out of his way to say that Musharraf was a "good and liberal man" and he saw no reason to

[1](#)7. (S) Faheem's relations with Asif Zardari, however, are not ideal. Their styles clash and Faheem appears embarrassed by reports of Zardari's corruption. ISLAMABAD 00000676 002 OF 002

by reports of Zardari's corruption. Faheem cannot be pleased that Zardari first named Faheem as the party's choice for Prime Minister, only to later limit Faheem's activities. We have heard several such stories of Zardari attempting to limit Faheem's activities. There is speculation that, if selected as Prime Minister, Faheem may agree to serve, but his working relationship with Zardari may be strained. Given his deference to the party, Faheem may agree to serve, but his working relationship with Zardari may be strained. Faheem has maintained contact with Musharraf after Benazir's death, and there are reports that he may have contemplated a split from the party. National Experience

[1](#)8. (C) Whether because of security concerns or an order from Zardari, Faheem told us he has no plans to campaign outside of his native Sindh.

[1](#)9. (C) If elected, Faheem would continue Benazir Bhutto's domestic and foreign policy agenda. He has told us that his main priorities would be to

[1](#)10. (C) If proposed as Prime Minister, this would not be Faheem's first opportunity to lead Pakistan. In 2002, Musharraf offered Faheem the position of

[1](#)11. (C) Faheem was born on August 4, 1939 in Hala, Sindh. He won his first National Assembly seat in 1970 and has been elected five times since. He served as a Federal Minister of Communication (1985-1988) and as a

[1](#)12. (U) Faheem holds a BS in Agriculture from Sindh University and reportedly studied in the UK. Faheem has two children, including a son. PATTERSON